

All Christians can celebrate Lent for a 'closer walk with Thee'

Meditation



Dr. Jeff Hensley
Pastor
Kings Mountain
Baptist Church

about the season of "Lent," so here it is. Most Baptist churches where I have served haven't cared much about Lent, and I have often encountered Baptists, who

think that the practices of Ash Wednesday and other common Lenten activities are merely "Catholic" events.

The fact is that the season of Lent is observed by Christians in many different denominations, including some Baptists, and it is actually an observance that has much to offer to those who have a sincere desire to deepen their faith. Lent is a forty-day period (excluding Sundays) that begins on Ash Wednesday, which means that for 2009 it begins on February 25 and ends on April 11, which is the day

before Easter.

Churches that employ the so-called "liturgical colors" typically use the color purple during the season of Lent. This color reminds worshippers that Lent is a season of penitence and preparation. Like Advent is a season of preparation for the celebration of the birth of Christ, so Lent is a season of preparation for the celebration of the Resurrection of Christ. Both the birth and resurrection of Jesus are so important to the story of the Christian Gospel that a time of introspection and reflection on our sinfulness and

our need for repentance should precede their celebration.

Lent gives worshippers the chance to think about their personal spiritual lives, to take stock of where they are in their spiritual growth, and to remember anew that they are sinners saved only by the grace of God. Coming as it does prior to Easter; it also gives believers the opportunity to remember the price that Christ paid for us on the cross, and to appreciate afresh the nature of God's love and grace.

Lent is rooted in the pre-baptismal practices of the

early Church, which typically took place prior to the celebration of Easter. During this time, new converts were instructed in the faith and prepared for their participation in the rite of baptism. By observing the forty days of Lent, believers would imitate Jesus' withdrawal into the wilderness that took place after Jesus' own baptism and served as a time when Jesus defined for himself the sort of ministry that he was going to practice - a ministry centered in the coming Kingdom of God rather than in the establishment of some sort of earthly kingdom, which was actually what many of his fol-

lowers had expected from the Messiah.

Here in Kings Mountain several of our churches cooperatively support the importance of the season of Lent, and we also have several special cooperative Lenten Services that remind us that preparation for the celebration of the Resurrection is something that all Christians should consider important. Not every church observes Lent, of course, but however we do it; all believers should be mindful of the significance of Easter and would benefit from thoughtful self-reflection before celebrating on Easter Sunday.

Fellowship & Faith



Featured Church of the Week
Christian Freedom Church

To follow is a list of upcoming Churches of the Week. If your church is listed here and you have a special event that you would like listed on your feature week - please contact Lisa at 704-739-7496 or e-mail ads@kingsmountainherald.com

- 3/3 True Gospel Holiness
- 3/10 KM Baptist Church
- 3/17 Sunrise Baptist
- 3/24 Midview Baptist

KINGS MOUNTAIN

Bethlehem Baptist Church
1017 Bethlehem Road
704-739-7487

Boyce Memorial ARP Church
Edgemont Drive
704-739-4917

Burning Bush House of God
310 Long Branch Rd (KM)
704-739-2877

Calvary Way Holiness Church
1017 Second Street
Pastor Clifton Morgan

Carson Memorial Baptist Church
262 Sparrow Springs Road
704-739-2247

Central United Methodist Church
113 S. Piedmont Avenue
704-739-2471

Cherokee St. Baptist Church
421 S. Cherokee Street
704-739-7697

Chestnut Ridge Baptist Church
618 Chestnut Ridge Road
704-739-4015

Christian Freedom Southern Baptist Church
246 Range Road
704-739-4152

Christ The King Catholic Church
714 Stone Street
704-487-7697

Church Of Kings Mountain
303 Phifer Road

704-739-1323
Cornerstone Church Of God
202 Margrace Road
704-739-3773

Cornerstone Independent Baptist
107 Range Road
704-737-0477

Crowders Mountain Baptist
125 Mayberry Lane
704-739-0310

David Baptist Church
2300 David Baptist Church Road
704-739-4555

Dixon Presbyterian Church
602 Dixon School Road
704-739-5536

East Gold Street Wesleyan Church
701 E. Gold Street
704-739-3215

East Kings Mountain Church of God
Hwy 161, Bessemer City/KM Hwy.
704-739-7367

Eastside Baptist Church
308 York Road
704-739-8055

Ebenezer Baptist Church
1621 County Line Road
704-739-8331

El Bethel United Methodist Church
122 El-bethel Road
704-739-9174

Emmanuel Independent Baptist Church
602 Canterbury Road
704-739-9939

Faith Ablaze Church
1128 S. York Road
704-739-8496

Faith Baptist Church
1009 Linwood Road
704-739-8396

Faith Holiness Church
Hwy. 161/Bessemer City Rd.
704-739-1997

Family Worship Center
1818 Shelby Road
704-739-7206

First Baptist Church
605 W. King Street
704-739-3651

First Church of the Nazarene
121 Countryside Road
704-734-1143

First Presbyterian Church
111 E. King Street
704-739-8072

First Wesleyan Church
505 N. Piedmont Avenue
704-739-4266

Galilee United Methodist
117 Galilee Church Road
704-739-7011

Gospel Assembly Church
202 S. Railroad Avenue
704-739-5351

Good Hope Presbyterian Church
105 N. Cansler Street
704-739-1062

Grace Fellowship
144 West Mountain Street
704-481-8888

Grace United Methodist Church
830 Church Street
704-739-6000

Harvest Baptist Church
144 Ware Road
704-734-0714

Kings Mountain Baptist Church
101 W. Mountain Street
704-739-2516

Kings Lighthouse Worship Center
420 Branch Street
704-739-7700



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Notice
In order to accommodate the number of churches in our communities, we will print two alternating lists of churches each week. If you don't see the church you're looking for, be sure to check next weeks paper.

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